

Appln No. 10/506,394
Amdt date April 6, 2007
Reply to Office action of January 8, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on January 8, 2007. Claims 1-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 8 and 9 based on formalities. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to overcome these objections.

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Engel et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,720,292. Claim 6 requires that "where parts of a filtering medium, lower housing, perforated plate, inner mesh and upper housing can be assembled into an air filter by means of a locker, and wherein said filter allows for the replacement of the filtering medium and the inner mesh without replacing the perforated plate." In the air filter disclosed in Engel et al., the filtering medium and the alleged perforated plate item 15b would be replaced together as they appear to form a unit that is held together with molded cap 17. In other words, it appears that one cannot replace the filtering medium without also replacing the perforated plate. As such, Applicant submits that claim 6 as now amended is not anticipated by Engel et al.. Claims 7 and 8 are dependent from claim 6. As such, Applicant submits that claims 7 and 8 are also allowable over Engel et al. as being dependent from a claim allowable over Engel et al. and for the additional limitations that these claims contain therein.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 as being unpatentable over Engel et al. in view of Oke, U.S. Patent No. 6,280,491. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Engel et al. in view of Heilmann et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0020512. Claims 9 and 10 are also dependent from claim 6. Neither Oke nor Heilmann et al. appear to disclose a filter which includes a filtering medium and an inner mesh, as well as a perforated plate where the filtering medium and the inner mesh can be replaced without replacing the perforated plate. As such, Applicant submits that the combination of Engel et al. and Oke cannot render claim 9 obvious and the combination of Engel et al. and Heilmann et al. cannot render claim 10 obvious.

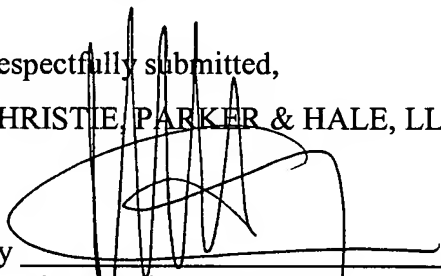
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The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Coulonvaux, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0000845 in view of Oke. Claim 1 as now amended requires that "wherein said air filter allows for the replacement of the filtering medium and the inner mesh without replacing the perforated plate and the reinforcing pile." According to Coulonvaux, the alleged filtering medium including the alleged inner mesh and the alleged perforated plate, appear to all be replaceable together as a unit. Oke discloses a coil spring which the Examiner alleges to be equivalent to a reinforcing pile. However, Oke also does not appear to disclose a filtering medium which can be replaced along with an inner mesh without having to replace a perforated plate. As such, since neither Coulonvaux nor Oke appear to disclose a filtering medium and an inner mesh which can be replaced without replacing a perforated plate, Applicant submits that the combination of Coulonvaux and Oke cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claims 2-5 are dependent from claim 1. Consequently, Applicant submits that claims 2-5 are also not rendered obvious by Coulonvaux in view of Oke for the same reasons as claim 1 and for the additional limitations that these claims therein.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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